

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating secure communications among
2 multicast nodes in a telecommunications network, the method comprising the
3 computer-implemented steps of:
4 receiving, at an authoritative node from a first node, a first request to store an
5 encryption key, wherein the first request includes an identifier, and wherein
6 the first node uses the encryption key to encrypt data that is multicast with the
7 identifier to a plurality of second nodes;
8 in response to the first request,
9 the authoritative node storing the encryption key;
10 the authoritative node creating and storing an association between the
11 encryption key and the identifier;
12 receiving, at the authoritative node from at least one second node of the plurality of
13 second nodes, a second request to obtain the encryption key, wherein the
14 second request includes the identifier;
15 in response to the second request,
16 based on the identifier included in the second request and the association
17 between the encryption key and the identifier, the authoritative node
18 retrieving the encryption key; and
19 the authoritative node sending the encryption key to the at least one second
20 node for use in decrypting the encrypted data.

1 2. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein:
2 the authoritative node is a trusted third party performs the steps of receiving the first
3 request, storing the encryption key, creating and storing the association,
4 receiving the second request, retrieving the encryption key, and sending the
5 encryption key;
6 the first request is encrypted based on a first public key that is associated with the
7 trusted third party;
8 the first request is signed with a first private key that is associated with the first node;

9 the first node is a router that acts as a multicast originator;
10 the plurality of second nodes is a plurality of routers that act as multicast receivers;
11 the trusted third party is selected from the group consisting of a certificate authority, a
12 key distribution center, a key exchange authority, and a key exchange center;
13 the encryption key is selected from the group consisting of a second private key, a
14 shared key, a pseudo-random string of bits, and a pseudo-random string of
15 characters; and
16 the method further comprises the computer-implemented steps of:
17 prior to sending the encryption key,
18 encrypting the encryption key based on a second public key that is
19 associated with the at least one second node; and
20 signing the encrypted encryption key with a third private key that is
21 associated with the trusted third party.

1 3. – 5. (Cancelled)

2 6. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the
3 computer-implemented steps of:
4 registering a certificate that includes the encryption key and the identifier;
5 in response to the first request, associating an expiration time with the encryption key;
6 in response to the second request, determining based on the expiration time whether
7 the encryption key has expired; and
8 when the encryption key has expired, revoking the certificate.

1 7. – 8. (Cancelled)

1 9. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the
2 computer-implemented step of:
3 generating the encryption key based on an Internet key exchange protocol with the
4 first node.

1 10. (Cancelled)

1 11. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein:
2 the first node uses the encryption key and Internet protocol security (IPsec) to encrypt
3 the data that is multicast; and
4 the at least one second node decrypts the encrypted data based on the encryption key
5 and IPsec.

1 12. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the
2 computer-implemented steps of:
3 storing a first list of nodes;
4 in response to the first request, determining whether the first node is included in the
5 first list of nodes;
6 when the first node is included in the first list of nodes, performing the steps of
7 storing the encryption key and creating and storing the association between the
8 encryption key and the identifier;
9 in response to the first request, storing a second list of nodes;
10 in response to the second request, determining whether the at least one second node is
11 included in the second list of nodes; and
12 when the at least one second node is included in the second list of nodes, performing
13 the steps of retrieving and sending the encryption key.

1 13. – 14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the encryption key is an old
2 encryption key, the identifier is an old identifier, and the association is an old
3 association, and further comprising the steps of:
4 in response to the first request, associating one or more criteria with the encryption
5 key;

6 in response to the second request, determining based on the one or more criteria
7 whether the encryption key is valid; and
8 when the encryption key is not valid,
9 receiving a third request to store a new encryption key, wherein the third
10 request includes a new identifier, and wherein the new encryption key
11 is used to encrypt additional data that is multicast with the new
12 identifier to the plurality of second nodes;
13 in response to the third request,
14 storing the new encryption key;
15 creating and storing a new association between the new encryption key
16 and the new identifier;
17 receiving, from at least one additional second node of the plurality of second
18 nodes, a fourth request to obtain the new encryption key, wherein the
19 fourth request includes the new identifier;
20 in response to the fourth request,
21 based on the new identifier included in the fourth request and the new
22 association between the new encryption key and the new
23 identifier, retrieving the new encryption key; and
24 sending the new encryption key to the at least one additional second
25 node for use in decrypting the encrypted data.

1 16. (Cancelled)

1 17. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1,
2 wherein:
3 the identifier is a session identifier;
4 the encrypted data is multicast with an originator identifier that is based on an
5 identity of the first node;
6 the second request includes an unverified originator identifier; and
7 further comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

8 in response to the first request, associating the originator identifier with the
9 session identifier; and
10 in response to the second request, determining whether the unverified
11 originator identifier is valid based on the originator identifier and
12 informing the at least one second node whether the unverified
13 originator is valid.

1 18. – 19. (Cancelled)

1 20. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the identifier is selected from the
2 group consisting of a hostname, an Internet protocol address, a media access control
3 address, an Internet security protocol security parameter index, a first string of
4 pseudo-random bits, a second string of pseudo-random characters, a third string of
5 arbitrary bits, and a fourth string of arbitrary characters.

1 21. (Original) A method for encrypting communications among multicast nodes in a
2 telecommunications network, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps
3 of:
4 sending an encryption key and an identifier that is associated with the encryption key
5 to an authoritative node that stores the encryption key and identifier and that
6 creates and stores an association between the encryption the encryption key
7 and the identifier;
8 encrypting data based on the encryption key; and
9 multicasting the encrypted data with the identifier to one or more receiving nodes,
10 wherein the one or more receiving nodes use the identifier to retrieve the
11 encryption key from the authoritative node and decrypt the encrypted data
12 based on the encryption key.

1 22. (Previously Presented) A method for decrypting encrypted communications among
2 multicast nodes in a telecommunications network, the method comprising the
3 computer-implemented steps of:
4 receiving from an originating node a multicast that includes encrypted data and an
5 identifier;
6 identifying the identifier from the multicast;
7 sending a request that includes the identifier to an authoritative node for an encryption
8 key used by the originating node to encrypt the encrypted data;
9 in response to the request to the authoritative node, receiving the encryption key; and
10 decrypting the encrypted data based on the encryption key.

1 23. (Original) A method for a certificate authority to facilitate communications based on
2 Internet protocol security (IPsec) among multicast nodes in a telecommunications
3 network, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
4 receiving, at the certificate authority from a first router that acts as a multicast
5 originator, a first request to register an encryption key, wherein the first
6 request includes a multicast session identifier and a list of authorized multicast
7 receivers, and wherein the first router uses the encryption key to encrypt data
8 based on IPsec and multicasts the encrypted data with the multicast session
9 identifier to a plurality of second routers that act as multicast receivers;
10 in response to the first request, the certificate authority creating and storing a
11 multicast session certificate that includes the encryption key, the multicast
12 session identifier, and the list of authorized multicast receivers;
13 receiving, at the certificate authority from at least a particular second router of the
14 plurality of second routers, a second request to obtain the encryption key,
15 wherein the second request includes the multicast session identifier;
16 in response to the second request,
17 determining whether the particular second router is included in the list of
18 authorized multicast receivers;

19 when the particular second router is included in the list of authorized multicast
20 receivers,
21 based on the multicast session identifier included in the second request
22 and the multicast session certificate, the certificate authority
23 retrieving the encryption key; and
24 the certificate authority sending the encryption key to the particular
25 second router for use in decrypting the encrypted data based on
26 IPsec.

1 24. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences
2 of instructions for facilitating secure communications among multicast nodes in a
3 telecommunications network, which instructions, when executed by one or more
4 processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:
5 receiving, at an authoritative node from a first node, a first request to store an
6 encryption key, wherein the first request includes an identifier, and wherein
7 the first node uses the encryption key to encrypt data that is multicast with the
8 identifier to a plurality of second nodes;
9 in response to the first request,
10 the authoritative node storing the encryption key;
11 the authoritative node creating and storing an association between the
12 encryption key and the identifier;
13 receiving, at the authoritative node from at least one second node of the plurality of
14 second nodes, a second request to obtain the encryption key, wherein the
15 second request includes the identifier;
16 in response to the second request,
17 based on the identifier included in the second request and the association
18 between the encryption key and the identifier, the authoritative node
19 retrieving the encryption key; and
20 the authoritative node sending the encryption key to the at least one second
21 node for use in decrypting the encrypted data.

1 25. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences
2 of instructions for encrypting communications among multicast nodes in a
3 telecommunications network, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps
4 of:
5 sending an encryption key and an identifier that is associated with the encryption key
6 to an authoritative node that stores the encryption key and identifier and that
7 creates and stores an association between the encryption the encryption key
8 and the identifier;
9 encrypting data based on the encryption key; and
10 multicasting the encrypted data with the identifier to one or more receiving nodes,
11 wherein the one or more receiving nodes use the identifier to retrieve the
12 encryption key from the authoritative node and decrypt the encrypted data
13 based on the encryption key.

1 26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for facilitating secure communications among
2 multicast nodes in a telecommunications network, comprising:
3 means for receiving, at an authoritative node from a first node, a first request to store
4 an encryption key, wherein the first request includes an identifier, and wherein
5 the first node uses the encryption key to encrypt data that is multicast with the
6 identifier to a plurality of second nodes;
7 means for the authoritative node storing the encryption key, in response to the first
8 request;
9 means for the authoritative node creating and storing an association between the
10 encryption key and the identifier, in response to the first request;
11 means for receiving, at the authoritative node from at least one second node of the
12 plurality of second nodes, a second request to obtain the encryption key,
13 wherein the second request includes the identifier;
14 means for the authoritative node retrieving the encryption key, in response to the
15 second request and based on the identifier included in the second request and
16 the association between the encryption key and the identifier; and

17 means for the authoritative node sending the encryption key to the at least one second
18 node for use in decrypting the encrypted data, in response to the second
19 request.

1 27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for encrypting communications among multicast
2 nodes in a telecommunications network, comprising:
3 means for sending an encryption key and an identifier that is associated with the
4 encryption key to an authoritative node that stores the encryption key and
5 identifier and that creates and stores an association between the encryption the
6 encryption key and the identifier;
7 means for encrypting data based on the encryption key; and
8 means for multicasting the encrypted data with the identifier to one or more receiving
9 nodes, wherein the one or more receiving nodes use the identifier to retrieve
10 the encryption key from the authoritative node and decrypt the encrypted data
11 based on the encryption key.

1 28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for facilitating secure communications among
2 multicast nodes in a telecommunications network, comprising:
3 a processor;
4 one or more stored sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor,
5 cause the processor to carry out the steps of:
6 receiving, at an authoritative node from a first node, a first request to store an
7 encryption key, wherein the first request includes an identifier, and
8 wherein the first node uses the encryption key to encrypt data that is
9 multicast with the identifier to a plurality of second nodes;
10 in response to the first request,
11 the authoritative node storing the encryption key;
12 the authoritative node creating and storing an association between the
13 encryption key and the identifier;

14 receiving, at the authoritative node from at least one second node of the
15 plurality of second nodes, a second request to obtain the encryption
16 key, wherein the second request includes the identifier;
17 in response to the second request,
18 based on the identifier included in the second request and the
19 association between the encryption key and the identifier, the
20 authoritative node retrieving the encryption key; and
21 the authoritative node sending the encryption key to the at least one
22 second node for use in decrypting the encrypted data.

1 29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for encrypting communications among multicast
2 nodes in a telecommunications network, comprising:
3 a processor;
4 one or more stored sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor,
5 cause the processor to carry out the steps of:
6 sending an encryption key and an identifier that is associated with the
7 encryption key to an authoritative node that stores the encryption key
8 and identifier and that creates and stores an association between the
9 encryption the encryption key and the identifier;
10 encrypting data based on the encryption key; and
11 multicasting the encrypted data with the identifier to one or more receiving
12 nodes, wherein the one or more receiving nodes use the identifier to
13 retrieve the encryption key from the authoritative node and decrypt the
14 encrypted data based on the encryption key.

1 30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in Claim 26, wherein:
2 the means for receiving the first request, storing the encryption key, creating and
3 storing the association, receiving the second request, retrieving the encryption
4 key, and sending the encryption key are included in a trusted third party;
5 the trusted third party is the authoritative node;

6 the first request is encrypted based on a first public key that is associated with the
7 trusted third party;
8 the first request is signed with a first private key that is associated with the first node;
9 the first node is a router that acts as a multicast originator;
10 the plurality of second nodes is a plurality of routers that act as multicast receivers;
11 the trusted third party is selected from the group consisting of a certificate authority, a
12 key distribution center, a key exchange authority, and a key exchange center;
13 the encryption key is selected from the group consisting of a second private key, a
14 shared key, a pseudo-random string of bits, and a pseudo-random string of
15 characters; and
16 the apparatus further comprises:
17 means for encrypting, prior to sending the encryption key, the encryption key
18 based on a second public key that is associated with the at least one
19 second node; and
20 means for signing, prior to sending the encryption key, the encrypted
21 encryption key with a third private key that is associated with the
22 trusted third party.

1 31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 26, further comprising:
2 means for registering a certificate that includes the encryption key and the identifier;
3 means for associating, in response to the first request, an expiration time with the
4 encryption key;
5 means for determining, in response to the second request, based on the expiration
6 time whether the encryption key has expired; and
7 means for revoking the certificate when the encryption key has expired.

1 32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 26, further comprising:
2 means for generating the encryption key based on an Internet key exchange protocol
3 with the first node.

1 33. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 26, wherein:
2 the first node uses the encryption key and Internet protocol security (IPsec) to encrypt
3 the data that is multicast; and
4 the at least one second node decrypts the encrypted data based on the encryption key
5 and IPsec.

1 34. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 26, further comprising:
2 means for storing a first list of nodes;
3 means for determining, in response to the first request, whether the first node is
4 included in the first list of nodes;
5 means for causing, when the first node is included in the first list of nodes, the storing
6 of the encryption key and the creating and storing of the association between
7 the encryption key and the identifier;
8 means for storing, in response to the first request, a second list of nodes;
9 means for determining, in response to the second request, whether the at least one
10 second node is included in the second list of nodes; and
11 means for causing, when the at least one second node is included in the second list of
12 nodes, the retrieving and sending of the encryption key.

1 35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 26, wherein the encryption
2 key is an old encryption key, the identifier is an old identifier, and the association is
3 an old association, and further comprising:
4 means for associating, in response to the first request, one or more criteria with the
5 encryption key;
6 means for determining, in response to the second request, based on the one or more
7 criteria whether the encryption key is valid;
8 means for receiving, when the encryption key is not valid, a third request to store a
9 new encryption key, wherein the third request includes a new identifier, and
10 wherein the new encryption key is used to encrypt additional data that is
11 multicast with the new identifier to the plurality of second nodes;

12 means for storing, in response to the third request, the new encryption key;
13 means for creating and storing, in response to the third request, a new association
14 between the new encryption key and the new identifier;
15 means for receiving, from at least one additional second node of the plurality of
16 second nodes, a fourth request to obtain the new encryption key, wherein the
17 fourth request includes the new identifier;
18 means for retrieving, in response to the fourth request, the new encryption key, based
19 on the new identifier included in the fourth request and the new association
20 between the new encryption key and the new identifier; and
21 means for sending, in response to the fourth request, the new encryption key to the at
22 least one additional second node for use in decrypting the encrypted data.

1 36. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 26,
2 wherein:
3 the identifier is a session identifier;
4 the encrypted data is multicast with an originator identifier that is based on an
5 identity of the first node;
6 the second request includes an unverified originator identifier; and
7 further comprising:
8 means for associating, in response to the first request, the originator identifier
9 with the session identifier; and
10 means for determining, in response to the second request, whether the
11 unverified originator identifier is valid based on the originator
12 identifier and informing the at least one second node whether the
13 unverified originator is valid.

1 37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 26, wherein the identifier is
2 selected from the group consisting of a hostname, an Internet protocol address, a
3 media access control address, an Internet security protocol security parameter index, a
4 first string of pseudo-random bits, a second string of pseudo-random characters, a
5 third string of arbitrary bits, and a fourth string of arbitrary characters.

1 38. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in Claim 28, wherein:
2 the apparatus is part of a trusted third party;
3 the trusted third party is the authoritative node;
4 the first request is encrypted based on a first public key that is associated with the
5 trusted third party;
6 the first request is signed with a first private key that is associated with the first node;
7 the first node is a router that acts as a multicast originator;
8 the plurality of second nodes is a plurality of routers that act as multicast receivers;
9 the trusted third party is selected from the group consisting of a certificate authority, a
10 key distribution center, a key exchange authority, and a key exchange center;
11 the encryption key is selected from the group consisting of a second private key, a
12 shared key, a pseudo-random string of bits, and a pseudo-random string of
13 characters; and
14 the apparatus further comprises one or more stored sequences of instructions which,
15 when executed by the processor, cause the processor to carry out the steps of:
16 prior to sending the encryption key,
17 encrypting the encryption key based on a second public key that is
18 associated with the at least one second node; and
19 signing the encrypted encryption key with a third private key that is
20 associated with the trusted third party.

1 39. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 28, further comprising one or
2 more stored sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause
3 the processor to carry out the steps of:
4 registering a certificate that includes the encryption key and the identifier;
5 in response to the first request, associating an expiration time with the encryption key;
6 in response to the second request, determining based on the expiration time whether
7 the encryption key has expired; and
8 when the encryption key has expired, revoking the certificate.

1 40. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 28, further comprising one or
2 more stored sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause
3 the processor to carry out the step of:
4 generating the encryption key based on an Internet key exchange protocol with the
5 first node.

1 41. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 28, wherein:
2 the first node uses the encryption key and Internet protocol security (IPsec) to encrypt
3 the data that is multicast; and
4 the at least one second node decrypts the encrypted data based on the encryption key
5 and IPsec.

1 42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 28, further comprising one or
2 more stored sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause
3 the processor to carry out the steps of:
4 storing a first list of nodes;
5 in response to the first request, determining whether the first node is included in the
6 first list of nodes;
7 when the first node is included in the first list of nodes, performing the steps of
8 storing the encryption key and creating and storing the association between the
9 encryption key and the identifier;
10 in response to the first request, storing a second list of nodes;
11 in response to the second request, determining whether the at least one second node is
12 included in the second list of nodes; and
13 when the at least one second node is included in the second list of nodes, performing
14 the steps of retrieving and sending the encryption key.

1 43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 28, wherein the encryption
2 key is an old encryption key, the identifier is an old identifier, and the association is
3 an old association, and further comprising one or more stored sequences of
4 instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to carry out
5 the steps of:
6 in response to the first request, associating one or more criteria with the encryption
7 key;
8 in response to the second request, determining based on the one or more criteria
9 whether the encryption key is valid; and
10 when the encryption key is not valid,
11 receiving a third request to store a new encryption key, wherein the third
12 request includes a new identifier, and wherein the new encryption key
13 is used to encrypt additional data that is multicast with the new
14 identifier to the plurality of second nodes;
15 in response to the third request,
16 storing the new encryption key;
17 creating and storing a new association between the new encryption key
18 and the new identifier;
19 receiving, from at least one additional second node of the plurality of second
20 nodes, a fourth request to obtain the new encryption key, wherein the
21 fourth request includes the new identifier;
22 in response to the fourth request,
23 based on the new identifier included in the fourth request and the new
24 association between the new encryption key and the new
25 identifier, retrieving the new encryption key; and
26 sending the new encryption key to the at least one additional second
27 node for use in decrypting the encrypted data.

1 44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 28,
2 wherein:
3 the identifier is a session identifier;
4 the encrypted data is multicast with an originator identifier that is based on an
5 identity of the first node;
6 the second request includes an unverified originator identifier; and
7 further comprising one or more stored sequences of instructions which, when
8 executed by the processor, cause the processor to carry out the steps of:
9 in response to the first request, associating the originator identifier with the
10 session identifier; and
11 in response to the second request, determining whether the unverified
12 originator identifier is valid based on the originator identifier and
13 informing the at least one second node whether the unverified
14 originator is valid.

1 45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 28, wherein the identifier is
2 selected from the group consisting of a hostname, an Internet protocol address, a
3 media access control address, an Internet security protocol security parameter index, a
4 first string of pseudo-random bits, a second string of pseudo-random characters, a
5 third string of arbitrary bits, and a fourth string of arbitrary characters.